

OPC BULLETIN



HOTEL BILTMORE • 55 EAST 43RD STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • (212) 687-2430 • VOLUME 33, NO. 8, APRIL 15, 1978

Washington Ticker

WASHINGTON — "Great fun" said Sam Sharkey, Federal Communications public information officer, after riding "Shamru," the whale, at Sea World in San Diego, while on a vacation.

The best kept secret in the Nation's Capitol was the purchase of the *Washington Star* by Time, Inc., on Feb. 3.

The deal was signed on March 15 with Time paying \$20 million plus \$8 million in debts to Publisher Joe Allbritton, who purchased the paper four years ago including WMAL-TV and WMAL-Radio which he has since sold.

Now this gives both Washington newspapers the expertise of weekly newsmagazines, as the *Post* is owned by *Newsweek*.

An emergency job committee is being established to channel information to the 140 staffers who worked at *The Trib*. We hope to have someone manning the President's desk (telephone: 682-7040) to relay messages etc. Anyone who knows of jobs open please call — and if the number is busy — call Mary Novick (687-2430).

Should a newspaper strike occur, the committee will no doubt continue to operate. We need all the help we can get.
—Matt Bassity

John J. Casserly, a speech writer for President Jerry Ford for 15 months, is telling about it in his book, *The Ford White House: the Diary of a Speechwriter*.

Longtime Washington correspondent Don Larrabee sold his news bureau to employees Gary Thomas and Betty Mills.

When Larrabee left the bureau to handle special work for Maine Gov. James B. Longley, Knight Kiplinger became bureau chief. Now he heads the Ottaway Chain (Dow Jones) Washington Bureau.

President and Mrs. Carter surprised the Gridiron Club members and 400 guests—all men wore white tie and tails—when they joined the performers in an impromptu dance to the strains of "Sweet Georgia Brown," as the entertainment program of the 93rd annual dinner came to a close.

Among those portrayed in a skit were Barbara Walters by UPI Helen Thomas (first woman member) and Walter Cronkite by Warren Rogers (*The Trib*).

Cronkite's mother, Helen Cronkite, was among the 1,000 attending the Sunday 'encore.'

The ribbing and jabbing was in Gridiron tradition—good-natured and bipartisan.

Walter Ridder, dressed as an 'old timer' Panamanian with hat sang a song with words of "Old Panama."

At the dinner President Allen Cromley, *Daily Oklahoman* and *Oklahoma City Times*, took in five new members. They were: William M. Ringle and John J. Curley, Gannet News Service; Robert Novak, Chicago *Sun-Times* Syndicate; Joseph Kraft, Field Newspaper Syndicate, and Haynes Johnson, *Washington Post*.

The speeches of President Cromley, Democrat Robert Strauss, and Republican Robert Dole were "off-the-record."

New 'Saturday Review' Chief set to speak At May 4 Shop Talk

Something new, something old . . .

At 26 years of age, Carll Tucker feels he has come of age. Having stepped into Norman Cousins' shoes on April 15 as editor/owner of *Saturday Review*, he will address a "Shop Talk" luncheon on Thursday, May 4 and discuss his plans for that redoubtable periodical.

With over 20 years of *New York Times* political, diplomatic and foreign correspondent experience, reporter-at-large Tad Szulc (pronounced "Schultz") will join "Shop Talk" fans on Wednesday, May 10. Over his luncheon, Szulc will discuss the contents of his new Viking Press book, *The Illusion of Peace*, which opens a Pandora's diplomatic pouch of information regarding the Nixon-Kissinger foreign policy.

Businessman and fifth-generation journalist Tucker is a *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University (1973). Having purchased the *Saturday Review* in March 1977, he spent a year at Norman Cousins' elbow learning the trade and technique of the magazine. His editorial skills were honed through his column "The Back Door," expected to be his platform in the magazine. Cousins mused, while announcing his future plans to lecture on literature and philosophy to medical students at UCLA, "I was just about Carll's age when I sat down in the editor's chair."

Polish-born Tad Szulc, like Kissinger a World War II Jewish refugee, has been a frequent critic of the former Secretary of State. His new book is based on the generally accepted premise that the Nixon-Kissinger foreign policy operated on two levels — one for publication, one not for publication. With great finesse, Szulc carefully leads to the conclusion that this policy is what eventually led to Nixon's downfall. It has been said before; it may be a rehash, but Szulc's reportorial insights make his saga a zestful recipe.

"Shop Talkers" Larry Stessin and Gloria Zukerman are creating lots of talk in May — Donald Woods on May 1 (see separate story), Tucker on May 4, Szulc on May 10 and *Village Voice* political cartoonist and playwright Jules Feiffer on May 15. Luncheon get-togethers require reservations (call Mary Novick — 687-2430) and convene in the OPC main dining room (19th floor, North Elevators, Hotel Biltmore). Members are charged \$7.50; guests \$8.50.

Let's change the committee's name to "Luncheon Talk."

—Chas. Schreiber

Speaking at memorial services for the late Freda Utley was her long-time friend Malcolm Muggeridge, British author, and Allan Brownfeld, American columnist.

The 71st president of the National Press Club, Frank Aukofer, Washington Bureau Chief of the *Milwaukee Journal* was sworn into office by Vice-President Walter Mondale. He succeeded Robert Ferrell, McGraw-Hill Washington Bureau Chief.

Jack C. Watson Secretary to the Carter Cabinet, told of the Carter-press relationship. He said, "it's not true that Carter aides don't enjoy Washington cocktail parties. It's just that so many of them conflict with the TV show, *Hee Haw*."

Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., was master of ceremonies. Others participating were Assistant to the President Midge Costanza, Rep. William Steiger, R-Wis., and Special Representative for Trade Negotiations Robert Strauss.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Award winner will address Special Shop Talk Luncheon on May 1



DONALD WOODS

By "silencing," they gave him voice.

After a harrowing saga in the finest tradition of preserving a free press, South Africa's Donald Woods is broadcasting to the world his criticism of the way his government handled the death of black leader Steven Biko. Originally editor of the East London (S.A.) *Daily Dispatch* with 30,000 readers, Woods fled for his life on New Year's Eve and is now talking to millions. His new book *Biko*, which will be off the Paddington Presses May 1, is certain to create added awareness of the South African situation.

Because Woods is a journalist who risked his life to advocate liberty for others, the Overseas Press Club feels he deserves its highest honor, the OPC President's Award, given only six times previously. The official announcement will be made April 17 at the 1978 Awards Ceremonies. Previous overseas commitments prevents Woods from accepting the award in person on April 17. He is recording a special message for the U.N. General Assembly.

However, he has accepted a subsequent invitation from Larry Stessin and Gloria Zukerman who co-chair the "Shop Talk" Committee to address an honorary luncheon on Monday, May 1. WNYC will broadcast his speech live. Advance reservations are suggested (call Mary Novick — 687-2430) and the gathering will take place in the headquarters dining room (19th floor, North Elevators, Hotel Biltmore). Members will be charged \$7.50, guests \$8.50.

VOA's Straus outlines Agency's future plans



VOA's R. Peter Straus chats with Headliner Luncheon chairman Dave Anderson before his talk at the OPC.

Photo by Maja Byrczek

More people in the Soviet Union listen to the Voice of America than to Radio Moscow, says R. Peter Straus, director of that foreign broadcasting service of the U.S. government.

In a talk to a Headliners Luncheon on March 30, Straus said the VOA, now

(Continued on page 2)

Born in Transkei to a family of British settlers who first came to South Africa in 1820, Woods studied law at Capetown University. After a fling at politics, he turned to journalism. "If I couldn't convert my fellow whites with oratory I would try to do so with the pen," he explained. He joined *The Daily Dispatch*, a vigorous voice against South Africa's apartheid policies, in 1960; he became its editor in 1965.

On October 19th, 1977, Woods was ordered "banned" by the South African government for his editorial crusade over the mystery surrounding Biko's death. The government order made him a public non-person. Plainclothes policemen kept him under constant surveillance; he could not meet more than one person at a time; his telephone and mail were subject to interception; and his car was bugged. And he was forbidden to write — even a post card.

But Woods continued to write — vigorously. On New Year's Eve, 1977, he and his wife Wendy and their five children felt mortally threatened and decided to flee. Through a series of complex maneuvers, they managed to get out of the country under cover of dense fog to neighboring Botswana. From there they flew to asylum in England. One of the most compelling reasons for Woods to choose exile was to see the book that he was writing on his friend Biko published.

"If I could speak to every person on this globe, I would speak of my friend Steve Biko, who died naked on the floor of a prison cell after suffering torture at the hands of men who represent an especially horrible form of evil — the evil of racism, which inflicts hatred and rejection upon its victims for being bom with dark skin."

Asked about the future, Woods said, "Frankly, I guess I would rather be home writing for my paper. It's rather ironic that I might end up having more impact now."

The South African government sanctioned the murder of Steve Biko to silence him. One must wonder how they feel about the failure of their plan to silence Donald Woods.

—Chas. Schreiber

CALENDAR

Monday, April 17, 6:00 p.m. — Annual Awards Presentation and Reception. Grand Ballroom, Hotel Biltmore.

Thursday, April 20, 12 noon, cocktails; 12:30, luncheon — Book Luncheon. Guest, Harrison Salisbury.

Monday, May 1, 12 noon, cocktails, 12:30 luncheon — Special President's Award and Shop Talk Luncheon. Guest of Honor, Donald Woods, exiled South African newspaperman. (See this issue for details).

Thursday, May 4, 12 noon, cocktails; 12:30 luncheon — Shop Talk Luncheon. Guest — Carl Tucker, new editor of *Saturday Review*.

Wednesday, May 10, 5:30 p.m. — Shop Talk. Tad Szulc, three-time OPC Award winner and author, *The Illusion of Peace*.

Monday, May 15, 12 noon, cocktails; 12:30 luncheon — Jules Feiffer, *Village Voice* cartoonist.

RESERVATIONS: Please call Mary Novick, 687-2430. Reservation cancellations must reach the OPC 24 hours before the event, otherwise members will be charged the announced fee.

Neier, Hauser debate Skokie march; Differ on rights of Nazi partisans

What happens when an undemocratic group makes use of the rules of Democracy to subvert our Democracy?

"The First Amendment is not only for the virtuous, but also for the vicious" stated Aryeh Neier, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, refugee from Nazi Germany and author of soon to be published book, *Defending My Enemies*, at a lively debate on Tuesday, March 28th on "Nazi First Amendment Rights" at the Overseas Press Club Shoptalk Luncheon.

Neier further maintained "the ACLU will defend a group such as the Nazis, but we do it with a good deal of reluctance".

When the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America, a storefront group outside of Chicago, wrote towns in the area requesting permission to parade down their main street on a Sunday afternoon for half an hour wearing their Nazi Uniforms complete with Swastikas, many towns merely ignored their request, but one town, Skokie in Illinois, responded with an injunction because 10% of its population, over 7,000 people, are survivors of Hitler's Death Camps. And now a heated legal battle goes on.

Mrs. Rita A. Hauser, former U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (who soon will announce her candidacy for Attorney General of the State of New York) maintains that the injunction has now been cut back to one item. The Appellate Court ruled that they could march, but could not wear the Swastika of the Nazi uniform since it constituted the "Fighting Words" exception. She further stated, "Free Speech is not absolute. Obscenities are not protected by free speech. The First Amendment does not protect libelous speech.

"When free speech is such that it extends to the point of inciting violence by turning words into fighting action, it must be restrained".

Neier responded: "They display the Swastika in bookstores and drug stores. We cannot have prior restraint because other people may lose control. Everybody has a right to free speech with police protection and adequate notice, as long as the words used are used in such circumstances limiting that free speech in such a way

that it will not serve to be offensive or cause personal injury."

Mr. Neier further reiterated: "One has to protect free speech. It is the only way people can express their points of view... There are all kinds of groups with all kinds of passions and they ought not to be silenced."

Nicholas Von Hoffman, King Features Syndicate columnist, adroitly moderated this debate. An extensive question period followed. *Larry Stessin* and *Gloria Zukerman* served as co-chairmen.

—Elsie Alden Lee

VOA's Straus

(Continued from page 2)

in its 37th year, has 2,500 staff members, broadcasting over 110 transmitters in 36 languages. It receives between 500 to 1,000 letters a week from listeners.

About 40% of what VOA puts on the air, Straus said, is news or news related, handled by a news staff entirely separate from the rest of VOA. Another 40% is Americana — "the general kind of background about what this country is about." Pianist Vladimir Horowitz was broadcast live from the White House, for example. So was an interview with a striking coal miner.

The remaining 20% of programming is editorial comment, either by VOA itself or others. Any statement of official U.S. government policy is clearly labeled as such.

Straus noted the criticism that VOA tells too much that is bad about America but he said it builds credibility to tell the truth.

"Ours is an open country," he declared. "If we don't report our faults, somebody else will, to our detriment."

The policy has been laid down by President Carter and Vice President Mondale, he said.

"When they say candor is the most important quality, they mean it and they mean to stick to it," Straus told some 75 OPC members and their guests attending the luncheon.

In a question period, he denied that new International Communications Agency might become a super propaganda agency. It will administer all the foreign information services of the U.S. government, including VOA.

"We are under strict instructions to tell it like it is," the VOA director said. "Americans have always had a national horror of anything resembling a ministry of information."

The VOA cannot even be heard in the U.S., he noted, except on those rare occasions when it is picked up on backlash.

The VOA worldwide staff, though employed by the U.S. government, will no longer be issued diplomatic passports or accorded other privileges abroad, such as access to PX facilities, Straus said. They will conduct themselves like other news correspondents.

VOA, he said, is about to inaugurate a "Conversation With America" program. It will arrange with a broadcasting organization in some other nation — English-speaking at the outset — to gather people in a studio and to talk over open house phone lines with a group in a Washington studio, with the conversations rebroadcast direct via satellites.

Straus admitted there are risks in using open microphones in such an undertaking but he added: "I think there are few societies that would risk it. I think it is significant this society will."

—David Otto Tyson

**SIGN
UP A
NEW MEMBER**

WHO, WHAT, WHERE

By GRACE NAISMITH

SUPER EXHIBIT: John Groth is having a retrospective exhibition (1938-1978) of his drawings, watercolors and oils, May 2 to 24 at the RHODA/SANDE GALLERY, 61 East 57 Street, New York. There will be pictures (subjects) of: Spanish Civil War, World War II, Sports all over the world, everything from bulls in Spain to Indians in U.S.A.

NEW LOOK: Helga Kohl of TIME-LIFE's "World War II series" is leaving her Alexandria, Virginia, headquarters for Bonn, Germany, where her husband, Walter Kohl, has just been assigned as U.S. Embassy Spokesman and Press Counselor to the American Ambassador.

HONOR: Ed Hymoff has received the Northeast Region Journalism Award from the Aviation/Space Writers Association for his July 1977 article in *Popular Mechanics*, "Will the Next War Be Fought in Space?"

PUBLISHING: Barrett Gallagher tells us that Al Garfin of Newsweek Books, co-chairman of the OPC photographic awards and exhibits, has donated to the Club a copy of "The Best of Photo-journalism." Newsweek Books had been selected by the National Press Photographers Association and the University of Missouri School of Journalism as the official publisher of their annual publication commemorating the "Pictures of the Year" competition. . . **Tom Mahoney** has a lengthy article, "When Yanks Fought in Russia" in the April American Legion Magazine. It tells of U.S. World War I intervention in North Russia and Siberia. . . **Hester Hensel** active in Coronado, Calif., editing the Coronado Hospital monthly bulletin. She is p.r. consultant for the hospital. She writes that OPC member, **Hazel Hartzog Tow**, society columnist for the San Diego Tribune, was one of 12 recipients of Achievements 1978 Awards of the Salvation Army in San Diego. Hester was in New York, N.Y., last week briefly. . . **Lewis Gilbert's** 38th Annual Report of Stockholder Activities at Corporation Meetings

in 1977 is now published and lying on the OPC library table. . . **Ted Berland**, after the demise of the *Chicago Daily News*, moved his column, "The Thin Man," to the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

ALL THAT JAZZ: Wilma Dobie's two-part installment in Jersey Jazz Journal — "Willie Goes to Washington" — has livened up the jazz scene regarding federal funding by the Advisory Panel on "Folk Jazz and Popular Music" by the Cultural Affairs Dept. of the Dept. of State.

CORRECTION: Warren H. Goodman, chief U.S. correspondent for Flight International, regrets that mention in the Bulletin of his recent trip to London via Iceland failed to report that he was going to London from New York via Dallas. "I was going on the pre-inaugural flight of Braniff's new Texas-to-London non-stop service." The date was Feb. 28. "My journalistic judgment has been questioned because of the report in the Bulletin on my recent trip to London and I would like to ask the editor to set it straight." Herewith!

OBIT: Sad news from Sara F.J. Covit in London, that her husband, a long-standing member of OPC, **Bernard Covit**, died suddenly of a heart attack March 5. The funeral took place at Edgewarebury cemetery, Middlesex, March 10. "Bernard," Mrs. Covit writes, "was extremely fond of the OPC and received the Bulletin wherever we were in the world." In Tahiti, 1971-1975, Bernard and Sara prepared the last edition of the 400-page "Official Directory & Guide Book for Tahiti," a most ambitious reference undertaking for French Polynesia. Covit had just started a new job in London as advertising executive for Audio Consumer Electronics magazine. Many friends the world over send sympathy to Sara. Her address is 6 Spencer Walk, London SW15 IPL.

Washington Ticker

(Continued from page 2)

Other guests were White House top officials, members of Congress, 350 friends and the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation: Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Steiger, Sen. and Mrs. William Proxmire, Rep. and Mrs. Alvin Baldus, Rep. and Mrs. Bob Kastenmeier, Rep. and Mrs. David Obey, Rep. and Mrs. Henry Reuss, and Rep. Clement Zablocki.

From the *Milwaukee Journal* were: Chairman of the Board Donald B. Abert; Vice President Joseph F. Flanagan; Editorial Page Sig Gissler; Publisher Warren Heyse; President Thomas J. McCollow; Managing Editors Joseph Shoquist, Harry Hill and George Lockwood and *Milwaukee Sentinel* Editor Robert Wills.

Others were Aukofer's mother, sisters and brothers and sons and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Penn Hudson, of NYC, Dixon Donnelly, Vice President press aide Al Eisele, and *Jessie Stearns*.

—Jessie Stearns

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OPC BULLETIN

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Overseas Press Club of America, Inc. Air-mailed to members overseas. First-class mail to others.

William J. Wilson, Chairman and Editor;
Helen Alpert, Matt Bassity, Ruth Biemiller,
George Burns, Blythe Foote Finkle, Ben G. Frank, Thomas J. Kraner, Ralph Leviton,
Rosalind Moore, Grace Naismith, Rebecca Riger.